The meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM by Chairman, Sen. Kushner J. S24.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Kushner J. S24; Lesser M. S09; Miner C. S30; Osten C. S19

Representatives: Fishbein C. 090; Hall J. 007; Luxenberg G. 012; Polletta J. 068; Porter R. 094; Rutigliano D. 123; Smith R. 108; Vargas E. 006; Wilson Pheanious P. 053; Winkler M. 056

Absent were:

Senators: 

Representatives: 

The meeting was called to order by Sen. Kushner who called for a recess until 9:45 AM. The meeting was reconvened at 9:47 AM then stood at ease until 10:02 AM. Sen. Miner read the safety instructions. There were no remarks from the chairs.

III. A motion was made by Rep. Hall and seconded by Rep. Luxenberg to draft for voice vote 13 agenda items as committee bills but to hold 9 others for roll call votes. The bills to be considered for voice votes are as follows:

**Proposed S.B. No. 359** AN ACT EXTENDING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS TO EMPLOYEES OF BUSINESSES RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE. (LAB)
Proposed S.B. No. 360 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCESSING OF WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT APPLICATIONS. (LAB)

Proposed S.B. No. 549 AN ACT CONCERNING FIREFIGHTER WORK WEEKS. (PD, LAB)

Proposed S.B. No. 660 AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY AND PENSION OFFSETS. (LAB)

Proposed S.B. No. 697 AN ACT CONCERNING NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS IN THE WORKPLACE. (LAB)

Proposed S.B. No. 698 AN ACT CONCERNING COMPLAINTS OF WORKPLACE VIOLENCE OR ABUSIVE CONDUCT INVOLVING STATE EMPLOYEES. (LAB)

Proposed S.B. No. 765 AN ACT ENSURING FAIR AND EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. (LAB)

Proposed H.B. No. 5271 AN ACT INCREASING SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING. (LAB)

Proposed H.B. No. 6346 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REVIEW OF MUNICIPAL ARBITRATION AWARDS. (PD, LAB)

Proposed H.B. No. 6508 AN ACT CONCERNING INVESTMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION JOB WORKFORCE FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS. (LAB)

Proposed H.B. No. 6630 AN ACT REQUIRING INDIVIDUALS WHO INSTALL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS TO COMPLETE AN ELECTRICIAN APPRENTICESHIP. (ET, LAB)

Proposed H.B. No. 6916 AN ACT EXPANDING REMEDIES AND POTENTIAL LIABILITY FOR UNREASONABLY CONTESTED OR DELAYED WORKERS’ COMPENSATION CLAIMS. (LAB)

Proposed H.B. No. 6923 AN ACT CONCERNING PER DIEM EQUITY FOR STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION ARBITRATORS. (LAB)

Proposed H.B. No. 6927 AN ACT CONCERNING WAGE THEFT AND DEBARMENT. (LAB)

Proposed S.B. No. 700 AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC RECORDKEEPING AND RESTAURANT SERVICE EMPLOYEES. (LAB) was held for no action.

The 6 bills moved for roll call votes are:

Proposed H.B. No. 5883 AN ACT REQUIRING WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR DETOXIFICATION FOR CERTAIN INJURED EMPLOYEES. (LAB)

Proposed H.B. No. 6921 AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON A PERSON'S CRIMINAL HISTORY. (LAB)

Proposed H.B. No. 6924 AN ACT PROHIBITING ON-CALL SHIFT SCHEDULING. (LAB)

Proposed H.B. No. 6928 AN ACT CONCERNING TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES AND PAID SICK LEAVE. (LAB)

Proposed H.B. No. 6929 AN ACT ALLOWING CERTAIN STATE AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS TO FILE WORKERS' COMPENSATION
CLAIMS FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED WHILE TRAVELING TO AND FROM WORK.

Proposed H.B. No. 6935 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHT OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE TO JOIN OR SUPPORT A UNION.  (LAB)

Sen. Miner made a motion seconded by Rep. Smith to amend the motion to place Proposed H.B. No. 6931 AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC WORKERS.  (LAB) and Proposed H.B. No. 6933 AN ACT REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF THE SALARY RANGE OF A VACANT EMPLOYMENT POSITION (LAB) on the roll call vote list since there was not sufficient time to examine or discuss them.  Following discussion, all previous motions were withdrawn.  A new motion to proceed and add these two items to the roll call list was made by Rep. Luxenberg and seconded by Rep. Vargas.  The motion passed by voice vote.

Discussion followed on the bills reserved for roll call votes.  Sen. Miner asked if the intent of Proposed H.B. No. 5883 AN ACT REQUIRING WORKERS’ COMPENSATION INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR DETOXIFICATION FOR CERTAIN INJURED EMPLOYEES.  (LAB) was for detox programs off or on-site. Rep. Winkler explained the confusion was whether opioid withdrawal programs were covered by private or worker’s compensation insurance. Each felt the other should take payment responsibility and this bill would settle the dispute. Sen. Miner had questions on just how/when addiction occurred. Rep. Winker said after injuries, prescribed opioids within a one-year default period would define addiction. Rep. Smith said coverage was already available and this could increase the cost of worker’s compensation. The motion passed Yea 13 – Nay 1.

A motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Wilson-Pheanious to draft as a committee bill Proposed H.B. No. 6921 AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON A PERSON’S CRIMINAL HISTORY.  (LAB). Rep. Polletta had concerns regarding landlords renting to persons with a criminal history and the type of crime committed. He said that there should be something in the bill to create regulations protecting everyone. Sen. Miner said ex-convicts have no chance to prove themselves even in licensed trades such as building. Language needs to be drafted that would conform to civil rights issues. Rep. Smith suggested tax incentives for landlords/employers so everyone is given a fair chance. The motion passed Yea 9 – Nay 5.

A motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep Lesser to draft as a committee bill Proposed H.B. No. 6928 AN ACT CONCERNING TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES AND PAID SICK LEAVE. (LAB). Rep. Polletta asked if this issue was covered by another bill already. Sen. Miner said the language needs clarification because it is limited and intended to cover the needs of corporations /employers. The motion passed Yea 10 – Nay 4.

A motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Lesser to draft as a committee bill Proposed H.B. No. 6929 AN ACT ALLOWING CERTAIN STATE AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS TO FILE WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED WHILE TRAVELING TO AND FROM WORK. (LAB). Sen. Miner asked if this was already covered under Worker's Compensation, and if so, why was it necessary. Rep. Luxenberg said many employees are not covered traveling to and from work, especially in unsafe weather conditions. Sen. Miner said these issues could be covered through union negotiations and the bill wasn’t needed. Rep. Fishbein said he had faith in the collective bargaining system and the State doesn’t need to get involved. Rep. Winkler said since worker’s compensation is a state program it can’t be amended through collective bargaining. The motion passed Yea 9 – Nay 5.

A motion was made by Rep. Hall and seconded by Rep. Porter to draft as a committee bill Proposed H.B. No. 6931 AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC WORKERS. (LAB). Sen. Miner said workers in the home care industries fall through the cracks and have no voice. This oversight needs language changes since in some cases conditions border ‘trafficking’. Rep. Smith said there should be an accurate definition of just who an employer is. Rep. Wilson-Pheanious said many of the reasons for this bill aren’t covered and go back to racism in the 1930’s and someone is responsible. The motion passed Yea 14 – Nay 0.

A motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Hall to draft as a committee bill Proposed H.B. No. 6933 AN ACT REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF THE SALARY RANGE OF A VACANT EMPLOYMENT POSITION. (LAB). Rep. Polletta asked about the salary range and what would happen if no one who applied was qualified. Sen. Miner said this bill should be drafted to protect more people and set parameters. He personally took a chance and hired someone without the necessary requirements and the situation ended satisfactorily, but often employers won’t do this. Rep. Wilson-Pheanious said that if the salary range is not posted it leads to discrimination and hiring for lower wages. The motion passed Yea 10 – Nay 4.


At 11:48, the committee stood at ease for 10 minutes and re-convened at 12:03. A voice vote was taken on the 14 bills previously set aside. The motion passed.
Sen. Miner said he appreciated this opportunity to ask questions about these bills and would be willing to work together for the good of everyone concerned.

Sen. Kushner said votes would be held open until 1:30 PM when a Labor and Public Employees public hearing would be held in room 2-E. The next public hearing would be held on March 7, at 11:00 AM in room 1 D.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

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<th>Danielle Palladino</th>
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